THE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

No. 12. December, 1930. Vol. 13.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
OTES OF THE MONTH	275
N IMPROVED JOURNAL	277
USINGS	278
R. A. P. JOHNSON...	280
UBLIC HEALTH	280
OCAL GOVERNMENT	281
DDS AND ENDS	282
HE LEGAL PAGE	283
YONT THE TWEED	286
ILLS IN PARLIAMENT	286
OVEMENT OF MEMBERS	288
LIGHTER VEIN	289
TUDENTS' NOTES	290
HRISTMAS GIFT BOOKS	292
HE BOOKSHELF	294
OAD TRAFFIC ACT	294

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Communications.

All communications should be addressed to the General ecretary, and communications on different subjects, or relating o separate departments—*e.g.* "Branch," "Legal," "Educaion," "Superannuation," "Approved Society," "Provident ociety," "Travel Bureau," "Service Conditions," "B. and O. und," "Official Journal"—should be sent as separate letters.

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CONTRIBUTIONS.

The "Local Government Service" is published the 1st of each month. All contributions, which should be addressed to the Editor, "Local Government Service," 3 and 4, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C. 2, should be received not later than the 15th of the preceding month. Opinions expressed by correspondents or in contributed articles are not necessarily held by the Editor or the Association. The Editor welcomes articles and letters on subjects of interest to Local Government Officers. Such contributions should not be of too great length, and should be typed on one side of the paper.

"By these three virtues be the frame sustained:
Of British Freedom—Independent Life,
Integrity in Office, and o'er all,
Supreme, a passion for the Commonweal."—THOMSON.

Notes of the Month.

THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE.

THE Departmental Committee appointed by the Minister of Health to "inquire into and make recommendations on the qualifications, recruitment, training and promotion of Local Government Officers" **will be in session before the next issue of this Journal, and the Association has been asked to give evidence upon the general conditions in the Local Government Service.**

At the moment of writing the evidence of the Association is still in course of preparation. The National Executive Council appointed a special Committee to deal with the question. This special Committee has met and settled the lines and heads, and the General Secretary has devoted himself to marshalling facts and figures so that the Association's case shall be informative, authoritative and convincing.

The main memorandum to be presented to the Departmental Committee gives a survey of the whole field of Local Government in so far as the officials are concerned, and shows conditions as they are, their trend of development, and the ideal which they should attain. This memorandum will, we think, become a standard on this aspect of the

service—and deservedly so because it is compiled from wide experience with care and labour, and is representative of every class of official.

It is this last factor which gives it its great value. A case based on the needs of a particular class of officer, or the officers of a particular authority or class of authority, would doubtless be of interest and some use to the Departmental Committee, but it would be of minor importance and would need to be considered in relation to other classes and the service as a whole.

After all, the terms of reference of the Committee cover the whole service, and it is right that Nalgo, which also covers the whole service, and is representative of every section, should present the main body of evidence and deal with every relevant fact.

A NEW JOURNAL.

THIS is the last issue of the Association's Official Journal in its present form. As from the January number our readers will enjoy a larger and better Journal produced outside Headquarters, edited and managed by experts, though still under the Association's control.

On another page we print an article showing what has been done by the Special Committee, which was appointed to go into the whole question of producing a journal which should "reflect worthily the status, opinions and aims of Local Government Officers." The results will, we feel sure, please all members.

One point we would stress is that it is hoped that members will send notes, news and articles for publication, as in this way the Journal will be made truly representative.

It may seem to some that a long while has elapsed since Conference instructed the National Executive Council to improve the Journal, but the time has been profitably filled in planning and negotiating, and we feel sure that members will welcome it in its new form and recognise the appropriateness of its appearance at the New Year.

CHRISTMAS WISHES.

IT is said by some that casualness is one of the curses of the age, and that the world was a much better place last century when a normal greeting was expressed in stately language and with a definite convention of accompanying action, while a proposal of marriage was a highly ritualistic ceremonial, accompanied by speech appropriate to an illuminated address. Nowadays, they say, we are too curt, casual, and careless to express proper sentiments in decent language.

There may be something in their thesis, but what they overlook is that the great facts and factors of life are essentially simple, and their fitting expression lies in simple language. Nobility of thought and feeling does not need floridity of language.

When bidding farewell to a close friend who may be going away for years, one's words may be little more than "Good bye and good luck," but it is difficult to say much more. In any case, to make a farewell speech in cold blood would probably make the wretched listener very uncomfortable. With regard to the reactions of a maiden to the form of a proposal of marriage, we are unable to lay down any decision. She might prefer something a little warmer than a casual "Let's get tied up"; but, on the other hand, it is probable that the old-fashioned proposal would afflict her with the giggles.

We therefore plump for simple sincerity, and in that spirit wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas Season, followed by a healthy and prosperous New Year.

SUMMARY SHEETS.

BRANCH officers are reminded that the annual Summary Sheets are due at headquarters. Redoubled efforts should be made to complete the collection of any subscriptions that may be outstanding and to ensure that the number of subscribers is up to or in excess of that for the preceding year.

An Improved Journal.

New Form and Style from Next Issue.

This report is one which will interest every member, as it shows what has been done in regard to the improvement of the "Journal."

The next issue will, it is confidently anticipated, be better and brighter, and will satisfy all those who desired that the Association should produce an official organ worthy of its size and dignity.

After this issue the "Local Government Service" will be issued in entirely different form. It will be larger in size, will be printed on better paper, and will contain regular features and articles which will make it, in the words of Conference, "a Journal that will reflect worthily the status, opinions and aims of Local Government Officers."

At its first meeting after Conference the National Executive Council appointed a special Committee to go into the whole question and to give effect to the resolution which charged the Council with the duty of producing an improved Journal.

This Special Committee, composed of Messrs. J. W. Singleton (Chairman), F. Marsden, J. W. Wilkinson, A. F. Hutt (Salford), D. B. Lowe (Nottingham), and Miss Gaukroger (West Riding), held many meetings and considered a mass of reports, suggestions, and recommendations. One fact was early recognised, and that was that the Association was not organised for such a highly specialised subject as Journal production, and the choice was faced of building up the right type of organisation within the Association or employing an outside organisation, yet retaining control.

The offers of certain publishers were considered, and in the end the Special Committee decided to recommend the National Executive Council to enter into agreement with the Municipal Journal, Ltd., to edit, manage and publish the "Local Government Service."

N.E.C. Sanctions Scheme.

At its meeting on the 18th October, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Special Committee, and in order that the first number of the new series should be published on the 1st January, 1931, empowered the Special Committee to act in drawing up the contract and arranging the scheme.

On the 8th November the Special Committee met Sir Robert Donald, G.B.E., LL.D., as the representative of the Municipal Journal, Ltd., to agree the heads of a draft contract and to settle the size, form, and content of the new Journal.

In this the Committee enjoyed the expert advice of Sir Robert, who is an acknowledged authority on Local Government matters, and is one of the leading journalists of the day. Further, in regard to the conduct of the new Journal, it will be under the general supervision of Sir Robert.

It was decided to have a larger page for the Journal, and to print the cover on good white paper in colour. As regards the inside, a better paper will be employed, and there will be advantageous changes in methods of display and presentation.

The Contents.

To a great extent the general run of matter at present published will be retained, but it will be graded in importance and treated differently. The following *résumé* will give a good idea of the main contents :—

Authoritative notes and articles on questions of policy.

Topical news and notes on service matters, such as conditions, status, qualifications, etc.

Official announcements.

Digest of reports of Parliament and Law Courts in matters affecting the Service. Special discussions and cases will be given fuller treatment.

A serious study of some phase of public administration by an expert.

Concise reports from Branches on matters which primarily concern local members, but which may also be of national interest.

Books dealing with Local Government will be reviewed by experts, and in special cases will be the subject of signed articles.

In addition, a special feature will be made of correspondence, and space will be devoted to personal notes, sports, and the lighter side of official life. There will also be recreation features, including chess and bridge columns by experts.

Co-operation Needed.

Much thought and every possible care have been exercised in ensuring that the new Journal shall have a good start, and shall make an immediate and strong appeal to its readers. After this, an essential requisite is the co-operation of every member, including more particularly Branch Officials, and those who are able to supply reports, notes and articles. To all of these an appeal is issued to do their utmost in a practical way to ensure that the new Journal shall maintain its newly created standard, and extend to greater heights of popularity and importance.

The address of the management and editorial departments of the Local Government Service will now be 3 and 4, Clement's Inn, Strand, W.C.2.

Musings.

By EPPI LOGGE.

A LETTER in the *Times* some time ago caused reflection upon what could be regarded as really effective reforms. The letter advocated the abolition of the half-crown—and I was very much impressed because only a day or two before I was sure I had received change for a two-shilling piece instead of a half-crown. I hesitated to argue the point because the man was inside a railway ticket box and he is not usually the most amiable person. That is by the way, but no less a good reason for suggesting that we could, with advantage, consider changing a few of the antiquated systems which play such an important part in our every day lives. As the writer to the *Times* suggested, we could simplify our coinage by abolishing the half-crown and re-instating the old four-shilling piece. That would give us a silver coinage of 6d., 1s., 2s. and 4s. I have overlooked that North of England and Scotch blessing, "the threepenny bit," but like ancient landmarks it must go! I do, however, suggest that, as we know by the product of the slot machine that a penny has dwindled, the coinage reform should give 10 pennies to the shilling and not twelve.

* * *

THAT would give us a very simple alteration of our coinage units, but a very effective one. And now for two others. First, a fixed Easter vacation. I am not concerned with the Easter Festival, which can be retained by the Church, and second, a thirteen-month calendar. A fixed Easter would give us a fixed Whitsuntide and this would be a blessing to 24, Abingdon Street, where preparation for the Conference is either a rush or a normal task according to whether Whitsun is early or late. I could think of other arguments in favour but that is enough.

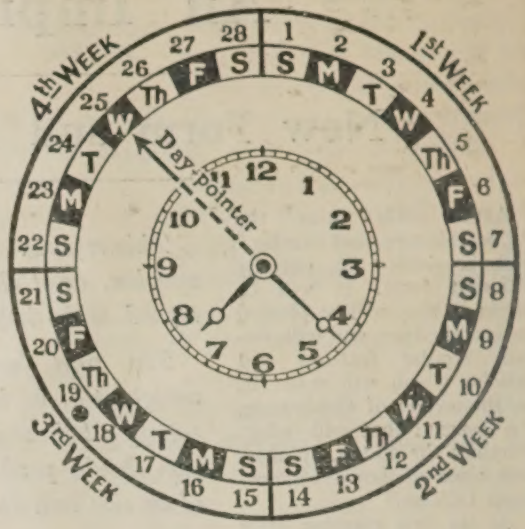
* * *

A THIRTEEN-MONTH calendar means a twenty-eight day month and that would save me the trouble of repeating a hundred times a year the childish formula, "Thirty days has September, etc., etc." The etceteras have saved my bacon because, at the moment I cannot remember the rest. Here is the idea in tabular form:—

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

EVERY MONTH, EVERY YEAR.

What a blessing this would be to the Treasurer's Department, but what a catastrophe to the calendar printers, and what should I do for Christmas presents. To alter slightly the opening sentence of this paragraph, a twenty-eight day month means a thirteen-month year, and that's where I jump in with great gusto. Thirteen salary cheques in a year instead of twelve. Great stuff, these Musings! The extra month would want naming, and I cannot suggest a better designation than "NALGOBER." Our clocks and watches could then be made into complete time and calendar recorders, thus:—


1st WEEK
2nd WEEK
3rd WEEK
4th WEEK
Day-pointer
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 S M T W Th F S
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 S F Th W T M S
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 S M T W Th F S
22 23 24 25 26 27 28 S Th W T M F S

* * *

THIS reform is being taken very seriously in America, and I should like to see a campaign opened here. The Editor of "Public Management," to whom I am indebted for the diagrams, says:—"The thirteen-month calendar will have several distinct advantages in the administration of municipal affairs. Payrolls will be made up on the same date and day of the week each month; the governing body of the city will meet on the same date and day of the week each month to allow the payrolls and to conduct the other business of the city; registration for elections and city elections will occur on the same day of the month as well as the same day of the week each year; an equal number of days in each month will be a convenience in budgetary control; there will be a great many advantages and conveniences in having the various legal requirements such as the certification of tax rolls, the collection of taxes, the collection of water bills, electric light and gas bills, the publication of official notices, and other matters, to occur on the same day of the week and the same day of the month, month after month, and year after year.

Thousands of costly errors are made in the conduct of public business in accordance with laws and ordinances each year because of the difficulty in remembering dates and calculating dates under the present calendar. City officials should be among the most enthusiastic supporters of the movement for a thirteen month calendar."

* * *

ONE good feature of the suggested simplification of the calendar, clearly indicated by the pointer in the above diagram, is the retention of the 25th. It is particularly important this month, and I take this opportunity to wish all my readers a very Happy Christmas. Once a year at least do I feel Musings are safe and that is when every reader is too full of benevolence to be critical. You all know in January next the "Local Government Service" will appear in a new suit, full of the promise of a New Year, and produced under the guidance of a great municipal publishing house. And that raises a very important question. "Are you all in favour of the application of the Superannuation Act to casual journalists?"

The Genie with slaves in the background appears to Aladdin (a Local Government Officer).

Aladdin (startled): "Oh, who art thou?"

Genie: "I am, O Master, the spirit of thy lamp 'Nalgo.' Already my slaves have brought thee bountiful blessings. Rub again the Lamp with further enthusiasm, energy, enterprise and enlarged membership, and manifold gifts await thee."

Mr. A. P. Johnson.

Prospective First Freeman of Hampstead.

A meeting of a Committee of the Hampstead Borough Council, composed of the Chairmen of the Standing Committees, recently resolved unanimously to recommend the Council to elect Mr. A. P. Johnson a Freeman of the Borough on the occasion of his retirement from the Town Clerkship.

This well-deserved honour is all the more remarkable in that no such previous election has been made, and Mr. Johnson will be unique in being the first Freeman of Hampstead.

PUBLIC HEALTH—*continued.*

medical advisers should have these matters in mind. In a multitude of administrative details they must not fail to see the wood because of the trees. The Act will not and cannot yield its proper results unless its full medical value is secured.

"There are four principal medical points upon which the Act lays emphasis and which should be borne in mind:

"(i) The Act transfers to the County and County Borough Councils certain medical functions which have hitherto been the duty of the Boards of Guardians of the Poor.

"(ii) This transference enlarges the community of interest in State Medicine.

"(iii) The annual grant in aid from the Exchequer is consolidated into a periodical grant, first for three years, then for four, then for five, and it increased in amount.

"(iv) Lastly, the Act sets up a new standard of achievement."

LOCAL GOVERNMENT—*continued.*

became the Rating Authority for its area, and the old Poor Rate, and other rates, were merged into one rate, viz., the above-mentioned General District Rate.

ACCOUNTS.

The accounts of District Councils are made up yearly to the 31st March in each year, and are audited by District Auditors appointed by the Ministry of Health. The Council of a Rural District must keep such accounts as will ensure that any particular Parish is only charged with the expenses incurred on behalf of that Parish. Local Government electors have the right at all reasonable times, without payment, to inspect the books, accounts and documents belonging to the Rural Council. Copies may also be taken. It should be mentioned that the District Auditor has very wide powers of "surcharge," that is to say, he (the Auditor) has power to disallow expenditure which is not according to law, and he has the further power to surcharge this expenditure on those members of the Council who voted for the spending of the money. The above remarks regarding the inspection of books and accounts do not apply in the case of an Urban Council, where only "interested" persons may inspect the accounts, and then only seven days prior to audit or during the audit. In both cases persons have the right to attend the audit and to make representations to the District Auditor.

There are various other matters affecting District Councils which cannot be dealt with in this article, such as, loans, grants, and the services administered by those Councils—*e.g.*, Housing, Maternity and Child Welfare, etc., and these matters will form the subject of future articles.

Public Health.

Chief Medical Officer's Report.

"On the State of the Public Health" is the official title of the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for the year 1929, but actually it goes beyond that title and gives much additional valuable information. If it did no more than report the actual state of public health it would form a most useful handbook for every Health Officer, but its sections devoted to "The Insurance Medical Service," "The Local Government Act, 1929," "Public Education in Health," and "the Education of the Public Health Officer" lift it to a higher plane.

The Medical Officer.

Of the Medical Officer of Health the report states:—

"The medical practitioner is the outpost, who first receives the patient; in the health insurance service, in private practice, or in his contribution to the community he is, or should be, the herald of national health. But so large and comprehensive is the sphere of State Medicine and the central and local administration of Acts of Parliament concerned with the Public Health, that the Medical Officer of Health is also necessary. Nor is he merely essential as a medical administrator. Professor Parisot, of Nancy, has been studying our English system of health organisation and this is what he says:—

> 'It is a matter of tradition and principle that the public health officer should be an expert not only in all public health matters—preventive and social medicine—but that he should also be a teacher, the heart and soul of the new movement, a man who can realise his ideals more by the exercise of his personal influence than by that of the laws which he has to apply, who is capable of promoting the development and improvement of the health organisation of his country. He, therefore, needs moral qualities in addition to technical qualifications, and his authority and value are due to a combination of these factors.'

"He teaches by his official reports, through his staff of sanitary inspectors and health visitors, and best of all by his own administrative practice. He should be much more than the Counsellor of his Authority, he should be co-operator with the medical profession in his district, and in health matters the teacher and leader of the people of his area."

The Local Government Act.

Dealing with the changes in the Public Health Service under the Local Government Act, Sir George Newman summarizes the position as follows:—

"The fruit and experience of many years of local government in relation to sanitation and public medical services are contained in the Local Government Act of 1929. From a medical point of view it ushers in a new epoch. It constitutes various administrative re-arrangements found to be necessary to the further growth and expansion of State Medicine. The subject was discussed in some detail in my report last year, particular attention being devoted to the historical origin of the Act and the immediate steps to which it was necessary for the Medical Officer of Health to pay attention at the commencement of the operation of the Act on April 1st, 1930. Here it is desirable to notice the principal medical issues raised by the Act and its administration. For whilst the Act is not primarily or wholly a medical Act it contains a number of provisions which closely concern medical questions and medical practice. It is important that Local Authorities and their

(*Continued on Col.* 1.)

Local Government.

By S. OSWALD EVANS, L.A.A. Finalist.

IV.—THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.—*Continued.*

In this, the fourth article of the series on "Local Government," the author deals with some of the powers and duties of District Councils.

BEFORE continuing our consideration of the powers and duties of District Councils, I shall be glad if my readers will note the following corrections in connection with the preceding article, and, at the same time, I desire to express my thanks to the correspondent who kindly drew my attention to the mis-statements.

In the preceding article it was stated that one of the qualifications of a Rural District Councillor was twelve months' residence "within the Poor Law Union." There should be added after the word "Union" the words "as it existed prior to the passing of the Local Government Act, 1929."

In the same article it was also stated that "Urban Councils manage all highways within their area." This should have read: "manage all highways, other than classified roads, within their area."

I also take this opportunity of adding that paragraph 2 in my previous article was an excerpt from "Local Government of the United Kingdom," by J. J. Clarke.

No general description of the powers and duties of a Rural District Council in relation to Public Health can accurately represent the wide variation in the functions actually or potentially exercised by such an Authority. As stated in my last article, there are some duties which the Rural Council *must* execute, while there are others which it *may* execute, although it must be remembered that these discretionary powers may be enforced by a Government Department.

In addition to its duties relating to Public Health, the Council of a Rural District has powers conferred on it by various other Acts of Parliament: for example, Housing—whereby the Council provides houses for the working classes; and Highways—the Council must protect rights of way and roadside wastes.

Powers applicable to Urban Districts *only* include certain public health functions relating to Urban areas. Power is given to issue Stock under part V of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. The Council may be the Elementary Education Authority, and has power, irrespective of population, to aid or supply education other than elementary.

An Urban District Council may adopt the Parochial Adoptive Acts, including the power to provide allotments, and may undertake, within statutory limits, the management of trading undertakings.

Where the population is 20,000, or over, the Urban District Council is the Authority under the Old Age Pensions Acts, the National Health Insurance Acts, the Shops Acts, and is the Elementary Education Authority in accordance with the Education Acts.

Where the population is 25,000 or over, the Urban District Council may petition for the appointment of a Stipendiary Magistrate, and, irrespective of population, an Urban District Council has power to apply for a Charter of Incorporation, under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, but it cannot incur any expense in connection therewith.

Powers and Duties applicable to Rural District Councils *only* include powers under the Public Health (Water) Act of 1878. Under this Act it is the duty of the Rural Authority to provide or require provision of a sufficient water supply for every occupied dwelling-house within its district. It possesses power to delegate sanitary duties to the Parish Councils within its area. It may obtain such urban powers, described above, as may be granted to it under what is known as a Provisional Order issued by the Minister of Health.

If the boundaries of a Rural District are co-extensive with those of a Parish, the Council will possess the powers and duties of a Parish Council. A Rural District Council has power to apply to the County Council to become an Urban District Council. Electors in a Rural District have power to inspect the Minute Books of the Council at any time, without payment.

OFFICERS.

The officers elected by a District Council include the Clerk, Treasurer, Accountant, Rating Officer, Medical Officer of Health, Architect, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor. The two last-named offices may be held by the same person. The appointment of the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector is subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health. In Urban Districts the Clerk and the Treasurer are specially appointed. Until the advent of the Local Government Act, 1929, in Rural Districts the Clerk and the Treasurer of the Board of Guardians usually acted in a similar capacity to the District Council. It is specially provided that no one individual may in any way, wholly or partially, combine the duties of Clerk and Treasurer to a Sanitary Authority. Every District has power to employ such other officials, expert or clerical, as the Council thinks necessary in its particular circumstances.

RATES.

Any District Council can levy and collect a General Rate to defray its expenses. The expenses included in such a rate comprise all those expenses which are not either by established custom or by the express provisions of some Statute payable out of a Special Fund. (NOTE.—The Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, abolished this reference to "Special Fund.")

The expenditure of a Rural District Council must be divided into General and Special Expenses. General Expenses are those which benefit the inhabitants generally, and include establishment charges, salaries of officials, expenses of disinfection, etc. These are paid out of a "Common Fund" raised from each "Contributory Place" or Parish in proportion to its assessable value. The General Expenses of a Rural District are assessed upon all rateable properties in proportion to full net annual value, subject to the provisions of the "Derating Act." On the other hand, Special Expenses are those which benefit a particular Parish or contributory place—*e.g.*, a water scheme or sewerage works.

Prior to April 1st, 1927, Rural Councils obtained their expenses by levying "Precepts" on the Overseers of the Poor, who included the amount of such precepts in the Poor Rate. Under the Rating and Valuation Act, 1925, the Overseers were abolished, and the Rural District Council

(*Continued on page* 280, *Col.* 1.)

Odds and Ends.

"Such Nice People."

RECENTLY I was privileged to see something of the work being done towards the preparation of next year's issue of the Nalgo Holiday Guide, and was amazed at the thought and labour expended on this publication. Actually, of course, my amazement was misplaced, as the authority and popularity of the Guide has been attained only by careful planning, the scrutiny of every entry, and much toil in the routine of preparation. I saw hundreds of letters from members recommending addresses for insertion, most of the letters giving praise to the Guide for its value in assisting in the choice of a holiday establishment. I also saw letters from advertisers in which they said that the advertisements had been very profitable. One such letter not merely said that the advertisement had brought many visitors but that the visitors were "such nice people, too."

* * *

Election Contests.

WE often refer to an election as a contest, or a fight, or even a battle, but these are merely terms to denote a certain amount of rivalry. In Poland, however, there would seem to be some justification for the literal use of the words if there is any truth in a recent paragraph in the *News-Chronicle*, stating that "in preparation for election day" the authorities had issued to each policeman a cuirass, shield, steel helmet and revolver. The paragraph was accompanied by the photo of a very warlike figure equipped with the articles mentioned. A Pole would have found our recent municipal elections very tame affairs.

* * *

"Cacoethes scribendi."

THOSE of my readers with a hankering towards journalism as a profit-making hobby will be interested in a book "Journalism as a Career" recently published by Pitman's. It consists of a series of chapters, each written by an expert, on the various branches of the profession. The most interesting chapter is that on the psychology of the journalist, by Lord Riddell, but the most useful in our case is perhaps that on the free-lance, written by the Editor, Mr. W. T. Cranfield. Actually, of course, the chief problem with free-lance journalism is not writing the stuff, but selling it.

* * *

Deep Gloom.

IT must have been in a mood of black pessimism that the Editor of "The Printer" decided to insert the following philosophical musing:—"Man comes into this world without his consent, and leaves it against his will. When he is little the big girls kiss him, and when he is big the little girls kiss him. If he is active in politics, it is for money; if he is not interested in politics, he is no good to his country. If he makes a lot of money, he is dishonest; if he remains poor, he is a bad manager. If he needs credit, he can't get it; if he is prosperous, everyone wants to do something for him. If he is religious, he is a hypocrite; if he doesn't go to church, he is a hardened sinner. If he gives to charity, it is for show; if he doesn't give to charity, he is stingy. If he is affectionate, he is a soft specimen; if he doesn't care for anyone, he is cold-hearted. If he dies young, there was a great future before him; if he lives to a ripe age, he missed his calling. So what's the use?"

* * *

As it should be.

AS a commentary on the London youth's knowledge of the geography of the Metropolis, and the position which N.A.L.G.O. occupies in the mind of at least one junior official, the following, which is vouched for by a member of the N.E.C. (and consequently beyond question), may be of interest.

It was necessary to send a special messenger from a suburban area to the Middlesex Guildhall. The junior official selected for the duty was asked, as an aid to direction, if he knew the situation of the Guildhall. He did not. Did he know Westminster Abbey—opposite the Guildhall? He did not. Did he know the Houses of Parliament? Alas, No.

A sudden inspiration from the junior, "Was it near N.A.L.G.O. House, because he knew that." Thus the journey was accomplished.

* * *

Only a Dream.

MY readers will appreciate the following from the "Ladysmith Times"—"A well-known clergyman once had a dream. He thought he had been appointed Mayor of his Borough. The first thing he did was to 'sack the lot'—to dismiss all the members of the Town Council so that he might have a free hand. For one year he ran the town, and many and great were the improvements wrought during his period of office—the slums were abolished, many new houses built, a new Town Hall was erected, playing fields were secured, streets were widened, and a hundred and one other improvements made. All went well until he saw in his dream the Tax Collector go forth to collect the new taxes that had been levied to pay for his improvements to the Borough. The taxpayers rose in a body and killed him, and our clergyman friend took the first train to London, went to the Passport Office, and spent the rest of his days on the Continent."

* * *

A Nice Month.

DECEMBER always seems to me a very nice month. I know the weather may be dreary and that rent, rates and income tax fall due at the end of it, but there is a good deal of fun too. With my domestic partner I plan present lists, smuggle parcels into the home to escape keen young eyes and set about the preliminary organisation of festivities. I scan the lists of theatres to see what is on, and with the aforementioned partner discuss (not argue) the merits of different productions. This year we are beautifully unanimous that we must not miss "The Grain of Mustard Seed" at the Ambassadors. Our unanimity is a tribute to the reputation of the play. Then again there is the promised visit to a pantomime with the offspring. Paula Ann is now seven and has a voice in this. She demanded a list of pantomimes, and I rolled off several titles till at "Cinderella" she interjected "No, not that." Mummy and I were astonished and asked the reason for the ban on "Cinderella," to be met with the calmly assured reply: "I'm acting in that at school and should be disappointed with it at a theatre." If I had her assurance I should have Town Clerks to dust my desk.

Cost of Living Index Figures.

Below we give the average monthly percentage increase in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months:—June, 54; July, 55; August, 57; September, 57; October, 56 Nov., 57.

The percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:—

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Food (7¼)	44	43	44
Rent (2)	53	53	53
Clothing (1½)	110	110	110
Fuel and Light (1)	70	70	70
Other Items (½)	75	75	75

The figures in brackets denote the proportion of each item out of a total of 12 as calculated by the Ministry of Labour.

In regard to rent the statistics of the Ministry of Labour may take into account decontrolled rents of working-class dwellings,

The Legal Page.

Some Superannuation Queries.

By the Legal Secretary.

In last month's issue of the Journal a number of questions and answers were given on the subject of superannuation. The following are further examples of points which have been raised by members :—

ASYLUM OFFICERS' ACT.

A member of a Corporation Water Department is applying for the post of Accountant under a Mental Hospital Board. He has had 10 years' previous Local Government service. The Mental Hospital Board have in operation the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909, and the member is desirous of knowing whether he will carry his back service with him in the event of his obtaining the post for which he is applying.

The position here is that if the member, on obtaining the appointment under the Mental Hospital Board, then becomes subject to the provisions of the Asylum Officers' Superannuation Act, 1909, his previous Local Government service will not count for the purposes of that Act. It may, however, be that the Act of 1909 will not apply to him as Accountant of the Board, because that Act, as extended by the Asylums and Certified Institutions (Officers' Pensions) Act, 1918, provides for superannuation allowances to officers and servants employed in public asylums for the insane and certified institutions for defectives, and further provides for the aggregation of service in asylums and in such institutions. It is possible that an officer holding the position of Accountant will not be employed in an asylum or a certified institution for defectives.

CONTRIBUTING SERVICE.

Another member writes :—

"As an officer of a Board of Guardians I commenced to pay superannuation contributions under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896, at the age of 16. Under the Act of 1922 (under which I now contribute as a transferred officer) service does not rank until the age of 18. Can I count my 2 years' service from 16 to 18 as contributing service ?"

The reply is that as Section 124 of the Local Government Act, 1929, provides that where a transferred officer who has been contributing under the Act of 1896 becomes subject to the provisions of the Act of 1922, all service which would have been treated as service for the purposes of the Act of 1896 shall be treated as contributing service for the purposes of the Act of 1922. Therefore, if you now come within the Act of 1922 because you did not elect to remain subject to the Act of 1896 your Poor Law service prior to the age of 18, in respect of which you paid contributions under the Act of 1896, will be contributing service for the purposes of the Act of 1922.

LONG LEAVE OF ABSENCE.

A Deputy Librarian, whilst in the service of X Corporation, was granted 2 years' leave of absence as from 1st November, 1919, to attend some school of study. On 31st December, 1920, i.e., before the 2 years' leave of absence expired, he resigned his position under that Corporation, obtaining an appointment under another authority. The Accountant of X Corporation has only certified his service up to 1st November, 1919. This means broken service, which will not rank for superannuation. He asks whether he is entitled to count the period from 1st November, 1919, to 31st December, 1920, for superannuation purposes ?

This raises a point of some doubt. Section 3 of the Act of 1922 defines non-contributing service as service rendered to any local authority before the appointed day by an officer or servant occupying, on the appointed day, a post designated as an established post. It is very doubtful whether, during the period when the member was on leave of absence whilst attending the school of study he was *rendering* service to the Corporation. There has been no decision on the point, and such a decision could only arise when the claim for a superannuation allowance is made and the question is referred to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Section 22 of the Act of 1922.

RETURN OF CONTRIBUTIONS.

Another problem was propounded by a member as follows :—

"I have received from the County Council, to whom I was transferred under the Local Government Act, 1929, in the office of Clerk to the Guardians, and who have determined that appointment, a notice that they propose to repay to me my superannuation contributions made under the Poor Law Officers' Superannuation Act, 1896. I have paid superannuation contributions as follows :—

As Assistant Clerk in the X Union	£35
As Clerk to the Guardians in the Y Union	£282
As Clerk to the Z Assessment Committee	£80

I have suggested that the refund should be confined to the sum of £282 in respect of my office as Clerk to the Guardians, but the County Accountant proposes to repay also the sum of £35 in respect of my 15 years' service in the X Union.

I still hold the office of Clerk to the Z Assessment Committee, and I desire my 15 years' service in the X Union to count for superannuation when I retire from that office. If I accept the refund of the whole of the contributions paid by me during those 15 years, a question may arise on my retirement from the office of Clerk to the Assessment Committee as to whether I am entitled to count those years for my superannuation in respect of that office. What course do you advise me to adopt ?"

To this the following reply was given :— "There is nothing in the Local Government Act (Superannuation of Transferred Officers) Order, 1930, dated 3rd July, 1930, dealing with the return of superannuation contributions to a transferred officer whose appointment is determined in consequence of the Act of 1929, and, therefore, the only provision dealing with the return of contributions in such a case is that contained in Section 8 of the Act of 1896. That Section provides that an officer, who has not become entitled to a superannuation allowance, and who loses his office for any reason other than his own misconduct or voluntary resignation, shall be entitled to receive a sum equal to the amount of *all* his superannuation contributions under the Act. Strictly speaking, you are entitled to have returned to you all your superannuation contributions, including those paid by you in the X Union, but as you want to have your 15 years' service in that Union taken into account when you claim superannuation in respect of your office of Clerk to the Assessment Committtee it would be advisable for you to refuse to accept from the County Council any amount in respect of your contributions in excess of the £282 paid by you as Clerk to the Guardians."

I.P.A. Dinner.

Brilliant Assembly.

Members of the Imperial and Round Table Conferences were among the guests at the dinner of the Institute of Public Administration at the Grosvenor House Hotel on Friday, the 24th October. Over 300 attended, including 36 guests, under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Sir John Anderson, G.C.B., the Vice-President of the Institute, who presided in the unavoidable absence of the President, Sir Austen Chamberlain. Those present included a large number of Local Government officials.

The speakers were : The Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, M.P. (Secretary of State for the Dominions); the Rt. Hon. Sir Richard Squires, K.C., K.C.M.G., M.P. (Prime Minister of Newfoundland); Mr. H. B. Lees-Smith, M.P. (Postmaster-General); Sir Muhammad Shafi, K.C.S.I., C.I.E. (Representative of India at the Imperial Conference and Delegate to the Indian Round Table Conference); the Begum Shah Nawaz (Delegate to the Indian Round Table Conference); The Hon. F. Brennan, M.P. (Attorney-General of Australia); Mr. I. G. Gibbon, C.B.E., D.Sc. (Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health), and Mr. J. R. Howard Roberts (Town Clerk, City and County of Kingston-upon-Hull). Lord Meston proposed the health of the Chairman.

The Nalgo Diary.

A SPECIMEN copy of the Nalgo Diary for 1931 is being despatched to each Branch and members are asked to inspect this sample and place the order with the Branch Secretary.

Send for the MORTON XMAS BOOK and let us

invite your acceptance, quite free, of a 1 lb. Box of Chocolates, or a Case of Cigarettes, or a Lady's Toilet Case, with any order totalling 10/- or more

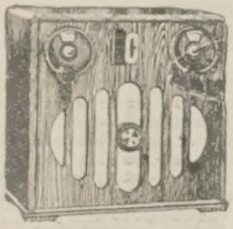
This book has been compiled as a seasonal "Gift Book," and in keeping with its title we invite you to accept quite Free (1) a 1 lb. Box of Chocolates, or (2) a Case of Cigarettes, or (3) a Lady's Toilet Case, with any order you send us value 10s. or more. The Chocolates are of high grade with assorted centres and will, we know, find favour everywhere; the Cigarettes are of a thoroughly acceptable standard and are fitted into a very tasteful leather case which will be useful to the smoker always; and the Lady's Toilet Case contains a nicely stoppered Bottle of Smelling Salts and a useful compact. Any of these three items we invite you to accept, as mentioned above, with our compliments, in the spirit of the season, with any order you send over 10s.

And our Xmas Book itself is something that will very much appeal to you. It is compiled with a versatility that you will find exceedingly helpful at this season—providing you with a wealth of ideas for presents for all your circle. Gifts for Ladies, Gentlemen, the Children and the Home—everyone is catered for, and with a range of offers that makes a highly suitable choice simple and speedy. And what is more, you have the opportunity of having anything from this extensive and up-to-date Christmas stock at home "on approval" without obligation, to see that your choice is thoroughly appropriate. In addition, you can make payment by convenient monthly instalments. Your Xmas purchases will surely total 10s., so there is nothing to prevent you sharing in our Xmas presentation. Send for the Xmas Boo. NOW and let us greet you, as you will greet your friends, with a token expressing the spirit of the season. Just send a card or the Coupon NOW.

FURNITURE—A NEW BOOK—OFFERING A NEW RANGE, A MONTH'S HOME TRIAL, FREE INSURANCES. WRITE US FOR IT

"There is only one word to describe your Furniture Book—perfect."—"The Catalogue I voted par excellence and I congratulate you."—"Very interested in the large Furniture Book. I was particularly struck with your cover design—the way you have grouped the articles, the coloured illustrations."—"The Catalogue is certainly the best of its kind that I have seen." These are a few of the recent comments we have received on our new Furniture Catalogue, and if you are needing Furniture we confidently invite you to write for it. It puts before you a very wide range of the latest designs, and behind every offer is our positive guarantee of satisfaction—our offer to send any item you prefer carriage paid for a **Month's Home Trial.** Should you not then be delighted we undertake to accept return **at our expense,** whilst if you keep the items we will arrange most attractive extended terms and give Free Fire and Life Insurances. The Book offers you practically 100 pages of VALUE, NEW DESIGNS AND MODERN TRADING OFFERS—Be sure to send for it NOW. Here is one of our latest offers—a 3-piece Suite, efficiently sprung, comfortably stuffed, handsomely designed, covered Art Tapestry or Damask—and Real value at **£17 17s. by 10/- Monthly.**

Write us please.



3-VALVE SET 6 Gns.—VALUE!

Our Radio Dept. abounds with attractive values this season—3-Valve Sets at 6 Gns. 5-Valve Portable Sets at 8 Gns. All-Electric Constructional Sets at £12. Radio-Gramophones at only 16 Gns.!! 7 Days' Home Trial is given, and our extended terms make the prices more negligible than ever. If you want an entertaining half-hour—send for our Radio Catalogue. We show our Midget 3-Valve Set **complete** ready to play at **6 Gns.** by **10/- Monthly.**

Write us.

YOU CAN SIT DOWN & PLAY NOW THIS XMAS

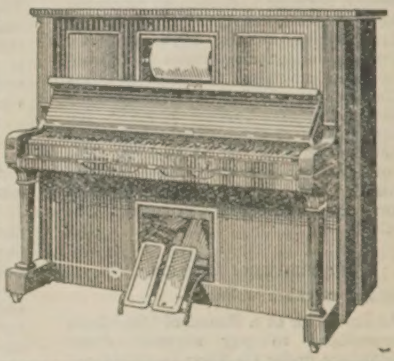
A PLAYER-PIANO at only 34/6 Monthly

MONTH'S HOME TRIAL—FREE

In this instrument we offer you a 3-fold advantage—the ability to play in masterly style at once—the opportunity of paying a most attractive price in a most convenient manner—and a Month's Home Trial absolutely free to enable you to decide once and for all in a most definite manner that the instrument is thoroughly to your liking. We pay carriage, and if you keep the instrument after the test we will give a 10 Years' Legal Warranty! The Player-Piano is a fine Overstrung with all-over Iron Frame, Underdamper Tape Action, Double Bushed Keys, etc. The Player Action is equipped with Tempo Lever, Re-roll Lever, Soft and Loud Expression Lever, Sustaining Lever, Auto-Tracking Device and Transposing Device. Ebonised or Rosewood Case, 4 ft. 3½ ins. high, 4 ft. 10½ ins. wide, 2 ft. 3½ ins. deep. Can also be used for playing as an ordinary piano if desired.

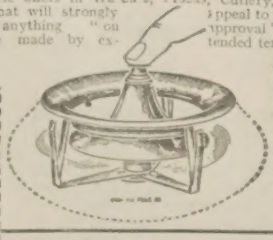
Only 66 Gns. Cash; or 36 monthly payments of 44/-; or 48 of 34/6 (with Free Fire and Life Insurances).

Be sure to write us about this Piano NOW, and be a musician at once.



JEWELLERY Dept.—A seasonable item.

Our Jewellery Department is making some very attractive seasonable offers in Watches, Clocks, Cutlery, Plate, etc.—items that will strongly appeal to you. You can have anything "on approval" and payment may be made by extended terms. We show a Novelty Ash Tray in Alabaster. Just press knob and everything is automatically swept into bowl, **8s. 9d.** See the attractive offers in our Jewellery Book.



ENJOY LONDON FASHIONS WHEREVER YOU LIVE!

The Morton Fashion Book offers you value, service and the premier London Style—no matter where you may live. We **guarantee** perfect fit or money back, and send "on approval" to make satisfaction sure. Extended terms available. Be sure to see our Fashion Book—it will unfold you offers that will make you glad you sent for it.

Special Overcoat 50/- by 6/- monthly.

Coupon for CATALOGUES.

To MORTONS (Desk M.O.), Highbury Place, London, N.5.

Please send me Catalogue marked X:—

Xmas Book..... Pianos..... Furniture.....
Furnishing Drapery..... Gramophones.....
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Ladies' Wear.....Men's Wear.....Children's Wear.....
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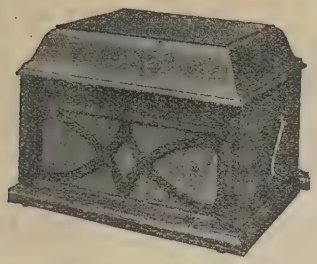
MORTON BROS. & CO.

Desk M.O., HIGHBURY PLACE, LONDON, N.5

Open 9 to 6.30. Sats. 9 to 1. Letter Box ALWAYS open.

A Happy Idea for Xmas—A Gramophone at the New Reduced Price by "His Master's Voice" and on the Month's Trial offered by MORTONS

The present is a very favourable moment to purchase a Gramophone at Mortons. The prices of "His Master's Voice" instruments have been substantially reduced, and besides the lowered figure you have the opportunity to test the instrument for a Month under the Morton Home Trial arrangement. We pay carriage—no matter where you may live. Truly, this is a Gramophone moment. Send the coupon for any of the models here—or ask for our Complete Gramophone Catalogue.



10/- down

brings "His Master's Voice" Table Grand Model 104

Table Grand Model. 18½ × 16½ × 13½ in. high. Single spring motor. 10 in. turntable. Self-releasing automatic brake, speed regulator. Latest tone arm, exponential tone chamber and matched impedance sound box. Sunk needle bowls and clips for Tungstyle needle boxes. Fret front backed Bronze-Gold Fabric.

In Oak, £7/10/0 cash; or **£8/0/0** by **10/-** monthly.

Mahogany, £8/0/0 cash, or **£8/11/6** by **10/-** monthly.

Superior Model, No. 130. with square top, 18 × 17½ × 13¾ in., 12 in. turntable, double spring motor.

In Oak, £9/0/0 cash; or **£9/13/6** by **10/6** monthly.

Mahogany, £10/0/0 cash; or **£10/15/0** by **11/3** monthly.

19/- down

brings "His Master's Voice" Re-entrant Model No. 163

A true "Musician's Instrument," of lovely tone, being fitted with "His Master's Voice" patented Re-entrant tone chamber, ball-bearing tone arm and No. 5a sound box. Designed on the principle of Matched Impedance. Finest finish cabinet with ornamental front. Lid lock, Sunk needle bowls for used and new needles, and clips for "Tungstyle" needle tins. Automatic lid stay operated by one hand. Two-record (12 in.) motor, 12 in. turntable. Self-releasing automatic brake operated by moving tone arm to extreme right, speed regulator and automatic speed indicator. Size 22 × 21⅛ × 39¾ in. high. **In Oak £27/10/0** cash, or **19/-** with order and **32** further monthly payments of **19/-**.

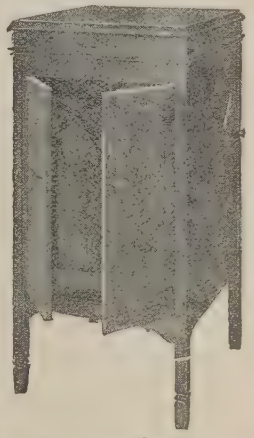
Mahogany, £31/0/0 cash, or **22/3** with order and **31** further monthly payments of **22/3**.

8/6 down

brings "His Master's Voice" Portable Model No. C101

In **Black Leather Cloth.** 11½ × 5⅜ × 16½ in. Single spring motor. 10 in. turntable. Speed regulator, pivoted needle bowl and clip for Tungstyle needle tin. Holds six Records in lid.

£5/12/6 cash, or **£5/19/6** by **8/6** monthly. Also in Blue, Green, Grey or Red, **£6/0/0** cash or **£6/6/0** by **10/-** monthly.



13/6 down

brings "His Master's Voice" Upright Grand Model 157

20 × 18½ × 36½ in. high. Designed throughout on principle of "matched impedance." Two-record (12 in.) Motor, 12 in. turntable, new brake, etc.

Oak, £18/0/0 cash, or **13/6** down and **29** further payments of **13/6** monthly.

Mahogany, £21 0 0 cash, or **16/6** down and **27** further payments of **16/6** monthly.

12/- down

brings "His Master's Voice" Bijou Grand Model 145

18 × 17 × 34½ in. high. Double spring motor, 12 in. turntable. "Matched Impedance" sound box, Record storage compartment, etc.

Oak £12/0/0 cash, or **12/-** down and **21** further payments of **12/-** monthly.

Mahogany, £14/0/0 cash, or **13/6** down and **22** further payments of **13/6** monthly.

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Open 9 to 6.30. Sats. 9 to 1. Letter Box ALWAYS open.

Approval Coupon

To MORTONS (Desk M.O.), Highbury Place, London, N.5.

Please send me on One Month's Trial, His Master's Voice Gramophone No.....
I enclose.... and if I keep the instrument after the Month's Trial, I agree to pay the balance by ....Monthly Instalments of.... Should I return the instrument at the end of the Month's Trial, my payment is to be refunded.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Position..... Time Held.....

Ayont the Tweed

Since last month's notes were written quite a lot of interesting cases have arisen and considerable work has been done, but they are chiefly of the nature of individual cases, and one hesitates, therefore, to give them much publicity. Two of them, for instance, are still pending, and may be brought into Court at an early date. On these cases it would be clearly inadvisable to make comments at the moment.

A Slander Action.

One of our members, Mr. Duncan Galbraith, the Secretary of the Renfrewshire (Paisley and District) Branch, was shamefully slandered by one of the candidates in the last Municipal Election, and Mr. Galbraith found it necessary to take immediate action. The case was raised in the Sheriff Court at Paisley, but before the hearing came on the candidate made a most abject apology, declaring that his statements had been "a parcel of lies."

Motherwell and Wishaw.

Just prior to the date of the Municipal Election a very misleading paragraph appeared in "The Motherwell Times"—the sort of paragraph which has all the appearance of being inspired. As it is well that our members in Lanarkshire should know the true facts of the case, we print the following letter which was sent in reply to the Editor of the newspaper :—

3rd November, 1930.

Sir,

My attention has been drawn to a paragraph in your issue of 31st October, under the heading, "How the World Wags." The paragraph states that "The Town Clerk has now informed the Finance Committee that N.A.L.G.O.—the Officials' Union—is unable to supply the information" (i.e., as to various Local Authorities possessing Graded Scales of Salary).

Now this statement is very misleading, and is apt to have a very detrimental effect on my membership in Lanarkshire. The truth is that in answer to a letter from the Town Clerk I wrote to him sending the scales adopted in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Greenock and Perth. My letter then goes on to say, "These, I think, should be most useful to you if you are asked to draw up a report on the subject. Experience has shown that large Local Authorities are better to have a Scheme of Grading with recognised conditions of service, for the chaotic conditions which otherwise prevail cause a general discontent and leave the staffs without any encouragement to give of their best. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know." The Town Clerk in reply thanked me for the Scales I had sent him, and did not ask for any further information. I, therefore, understood that he was satisfied with what he had received. If the Council had a sincere desire to institute proper conditions of service, the information supplied by me was sufficient as a basis on which to frame a Scheme of Grading. At any rate, I was able and willing, as indicated in my letter, to supply any further information the Council might reasonably desire.

Yours faithfully,
(sgd.) J. M. MORTIMER,
Divisional Organising Secretary

Fife County Council.

What we hope will be the first of a series of meetings with the new County Council Staffs was held with Fife County Council Staffs at Cupar on 6th November. There was a good attendance, over which Mr. William Wilson, Public Assistance Officer, presided. The D.O.S. outlined the Constitution of the Association and gave an account of its work. After the meeting several questions were asked, chiefly with regard to Superannuation, and it was felt that all those present were favourably disposed to joining the membership.

Compensation Appeals.

Several Appeals have been made against decisions of Local Authorities. These concern chiefly cases of men who are either 65 or approaching that age. One case of an interesting character is that of a husband and wife who held a joint appointment. Interviews with one or two County Clerks have taken place and understandings reached with regard to cases of difficulty. In Ayrshire, practically all the Claims have now been lodged, and we understand that they are to be adjudicated on the most favourable basis—the last year's salary and not the average of the last five years being taken.

Proposed Summer School.

On Saturday, 15th November, a meeting of the Education Committee of the Scottish Council was held at Glasgow, when tentative arrangements for the proposed Summer School were made. The D.O.S. submitted a report on the Nalgo Correspondence Tuition Courses, and he also reported on a correspondence he had had with Sir D. M. Stevenson with regard to the institution of a Diploma for Public Administration at Glasgow University.

Bills in Parliament.

Examination and Comment.

By the Legal Secretary.

The following Bills which have been introduced into Parliament during the present Session contain provisions affecting a number of officers of Local Authorities :—

Architects (Registration) Bill.

Clause 3 provides for the establishment of a register to be called "The Register of Architects." By Clause 5 it is provided that the following (amongst others) shall be entitled to be registered :—

(i) Every person who, at the passing of the Bill, is or has been in bona fide practice as an architect.

(ii) Every person—

(*a*) who was for a period of 5 years immediately prior to and is at the passing of the Bill a bona fide architectural assistant, or

(*b*) who subsequently to the passing of the Bill has completed a period of 5 years (one year at least of which period shall have been prior to the passing of the Bill) as a bona fide architectural assistant.

Any period during which any such architectural assistant has been engaged as a pupil to an architect, or has been a student in a school of architecture recognised as such by the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects, is to be reckoned as part of such period of 5 years.

Applications for registration by the persons above referred to must be made within a period of 5 years from the passing of the Bill.

Clause 11, relating to the use of the title "Registered Architect," contains a provision that "nothing in this Act shall prevent any Local Authority, corporate body or person performing any act or operations in connection with the design, or the construction of buildings of a nature which such Local Authority, corporate body or person was entitled to perform prior to the passing of this Act."

Under Clause 19, the provisions of the Bill, other than those of Clause 11, are not, unless he is a registered person or has made an application for registration, to apply to any person when performing any of the duties or functions connected with any office held by him under any Public or Local Authority.

The Bill was read a second time on the 7th November, and committed to a Standing Committee. During the course of the debate on Second Reading the Under-Secretary for the Home Office intimated that the Government would leave the Bill entirely to a free vote of the House.

Solicitors Bill.

This Bill, which was introduced last Session, has been reintroduced during the present Session with almost identical provisions.

The objects of the Bill are to require all Solicitors to be members of the Law Society, and to enable that Society to make and enforce rules of professional conduct, and to establish a fund for the relief of persons suffering loss through the default of Solicitors.

The Bill is due for Second Reading on the 20th February.

It is likely that a Conference of representatives of bodies of Local Government officers who are affected by the Bill will be held at an early date.

Voluntary Contributors.

Persons who entered excepted employment before the 1st January, 1930, are reminded that they can become Voluntary Contributors to the Nalgo Approved Society if application is made not later than 31st December. If they miss this opportunity of contributing for the excellent State insurance benefits provided for 1s. 6d. per week they will have to wait until their salary exceeds £250 per annum.

BE PREPARED!

On and after 1st Jan., 1931, every Motorist must be insured against third party risks.
THE "NALGO" MOTOR POLICIES cover these risks.

These Policies are available solely to members of N.A.L.G.O. and can be obtained only through

THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LTD.,

24, ABINGDON STREET,
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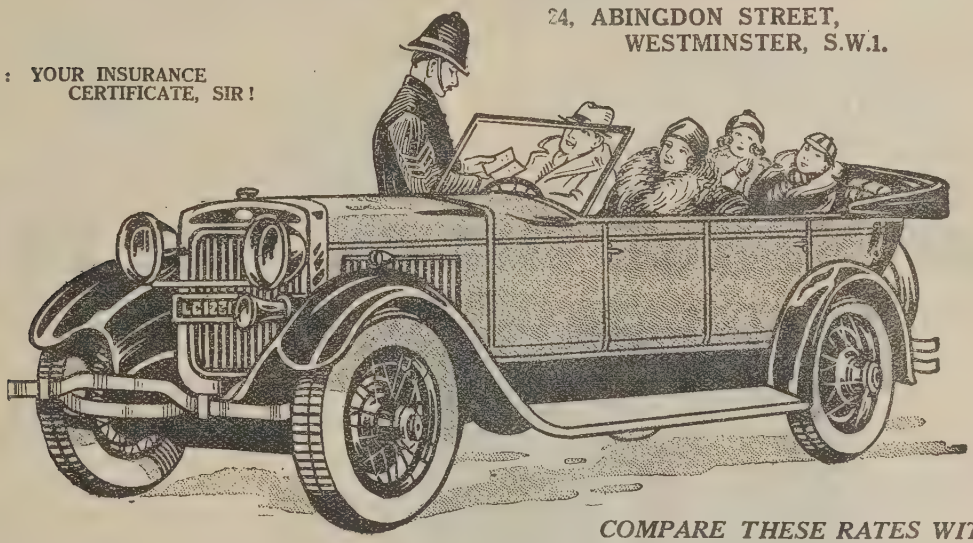

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Mr. Stanley Moffett, Wakefield, to Director of Education, Middlesbrough.
Mr. R. T. Banks, West Riding C.C., to Relieving Officer, Norwich.
Mr. E. A. Armitage, Huddersfield, to Education Assistant, Leicester.
Mr. and Mrs. C. Boaden, Leeds, to the Medway Institution, Chatham.
Mr. F. B. Sharpe, Bedford, to Building Inspector, Reigate.
Mr. F. M. Walker, Cambridge, to City Treasurer's Department, Oxford.
Mr. W. Avison, Cornwall C.C., to Weights and Measures Assistant, Bournemouth.
Mr. F. R. Stubbs, Southgate, to Junior Assistant, High Wycombe.
Mr. W. H. Day, Bucks. C.U., to Divisional Surveyor, Shropshire C.C.
Mr. W. G. Touch, Tonbridge, to Junior Assistant Surveyor, Greenwich.
Mr. A. Shakespeare, East Sussex, to Public Assistance Department, Cornwall C.C.
Mr. W. H. F. Fox, Leyton, to Superintendent of Works, Dagenham U.D.C.
Mr. Norman Green, Hastings, to Sanitary Inspector, Uckfield R.D.C.
Mr. L. Warboys, Reigate, has left the Service.
Mr. A. R. Dixon, Hove, to Audit Clerk, Doncaster.

THE NALGO DIARY FOR 1931

This illustration of the Nalgo Diary for 1931 cannot do justice to its high quality and handsome appearance, but the points indicated will serve to show the varied and valuable nature of its contents. Inspect the sample copy held by your Branch Secretary and order from him or direct from Headquarters.
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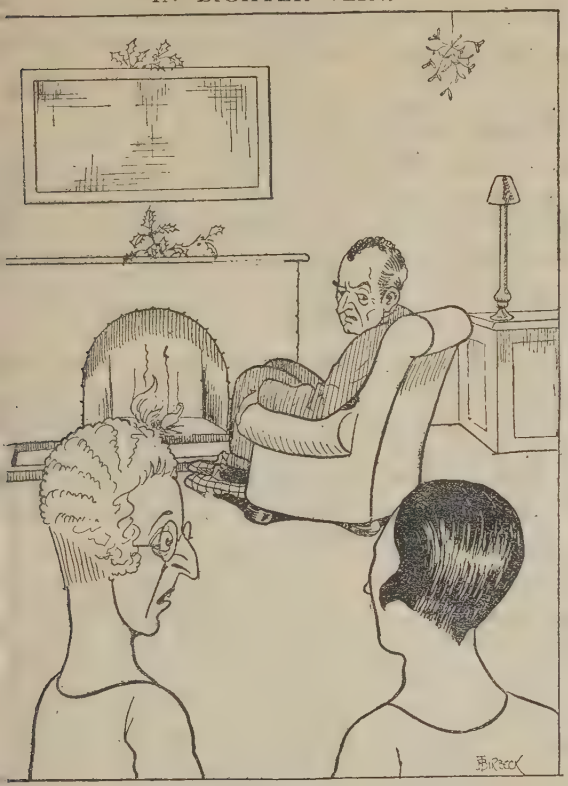


"I am afraid father is going to be ill after the Xmas festivities, Mother."

"That does not matter, child, he is a member of the Fulgo Provident Society."

From the time a boy starts fishing for tiddlers with a penny net, and playing marbles on the pavement until he is blind, bald-headed, and toothless, he is called upon to explain to some woman why he didn't come home earlier.

Platonic friendship is the gun you didn't know was loaded.

Now that the Postmaster-General is accepting advertisements for the inside walls of post-offices, what about a notice over every pillar-box bearing the inscription "Post no bills"?—*The Daily Work*, Weston-super-Mare.

The time you need your temper most is after you lose it.—*The Journal*, Liverpool Branch.

Two boys halted before a brass plate fixed on the front of a house. On it was inscribed in bold letters the word "Chiropodist."

"Chirrupodist!" remarked one of them. "What is that?"

"Why," replied his companion, "a chirrupodist is a chap who teaches canaries to whistle."—*The Valenceonian.*

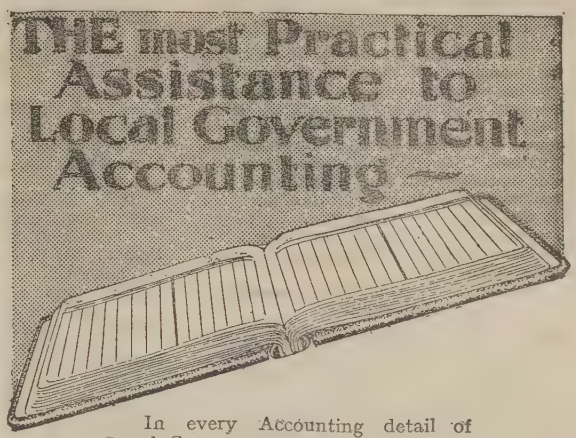
"What's the new building in Boundary Road?"

"Oh! it's a workshop for the blind."

"For the blind? Then what do they want all those windows for?"—*The Stimulus*, St. Helens.

Mr. Brennan: "We threw out the last tenant because he owed four months' rent."

Applicant for house: "Good! I will take the house on the same conditions."—*The Priory News*, Friern Barnet.



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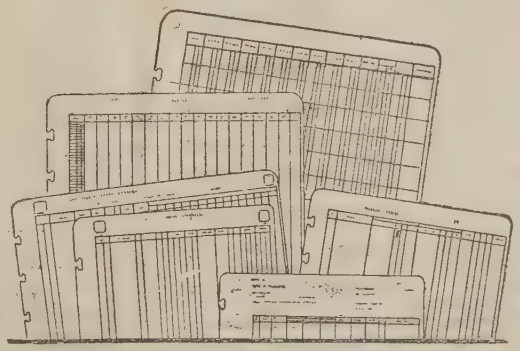

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Students' Notes.

Education Correspondents.

The National Executive Council has recommended all Branches of the Association to appoint an Education Correspondent for a variety of purposes, which were set out on page 183 of the August issue of "The Local Government Service." It is hoped that the Education Correspondent will look after the intellectual interests and requirements of members of the Association in his area. Up to the printing of this issue of the Journal the following Education Correspondents have been appointed.

In the following list the name of the Branch is printed first :—

Abertillery : S. Soloway, Rates Dept., Council Offices.
Altrincham : C. E. Vesey, Town Hall.
Barking (Essex) : H. R. Bennett, Education Dept., Public Offices.
Beckenham : B. Lee, Council Offices.
Blackpool : C. Firth, Tramway Offices.
Bootle : H. A. Brown, Town Hall.
Bournemouth : R. F. White, Education Dept.
Bradford : J. Dyson, Carter's Buildings, 15, Bridge Street.
Bridgend : H. W. Adams, Water Board Offices.
Bristol : H. Bingham, Guildhall.
Burnley : J. H. Holt, 15, Powell Street.
Cardiff : J. Ralph Evans, Education Dept.
Carshalton : R. A. Hutson, District Council Offices.
Castleford : C. H. Marshall, Town Hall.
Cornwall, C. C., F. Roberts, Education Dept.
Crewe : W. S. Moss, Education Offices.
Croydon : W. Nelson, Education Office.
Darlington : R. Peplow, Education Offices.
Deptford : A. S. Lidington, Town Hall.
Derby : W. H. Morley, Education Office.
Dorset : C. Stanley Johnson, County Offices.
Durham County : J. W. Vince, The Club House, 22, New Elvet.
East Ham : A. A. Garrard, Education Offices.
East Sussex : J. A. Wright, County Surveyor's Dept.
Eston (Yorks.) : J. W. Shawcross, Accts. Dept.
Exeter : E. A. W. Balsom, Education Dept.
Felling & Hebburn : H. Fawcett, Council Buildings, Felling-on-Tyne.
Fulham : J. Jordan, Deputy Boro. Treasurer.
Glamorgan : Gwynfe Lewis, Education Dept., County Hall.
Greenwich : F. W. Foulger, Borough Hall.
Hampstead : R. H. Box, Town Hall.
Haslingden : J. Lytte, Boro. Treasurer's Office.
Heston & Isleworth : P. S. Young, Clerk's Dept.
Heywood : T. T. Pearson, Education Offices.
Holborn : C. F. Williamson, Town Hall.
Huddersfield : W. Dransfield, Boro. Treasurer's Dept.
Hull : H. O. Bates, City Treasurer's Dept.
Isle of Thanet : G. F. Tanner, Albion House, Ramsgate.
Kendal : F. Beaumont, County Surveyor's Dept.
Leeds : J. E. Sharp, Education Dept.
Leicester : D. B. Lowe, 3, Newtown Street.
Leigh : I. C. Pharaoh, Director of Edn.
Maidstone : A. W. Peacock, Education Department.
Middleton (Lancs.) : J. Pollard, Town Hall.
Neath : E. Morris, 2, Victoria Gardens.
Newton-in-Makerfield : E. G. Alldred, Town Hall, Earlestown.
Perth : R. C. Gowans, City Chamberlain's Office.
Peterborough : R. E. Kingston, City Accountant's Office.
Pontardawe (Swansea) : S. O. Evans, Council Offices.
Port of London : S. T. Rogers, Grain Office, Surrey Commercial Docks.
Preston : T. Cooper, Public Library.
Reigate : F. A. Bristow, Municipal Buildings.
Rawtenstall : R. J. Bax, Town Hall.
Rochdale : A. Ashworth, Boro. Treasurer's Dept.
Rotherham : J. A. Auty, Education Offices.
St. Marylebone : F. Heywood and P. H. Milton, Town Hall.
Smethwick : H. N. Schrader, Council House.
Southport : N. Wells, Water Dept.
South Shields : W. D. Dixon, Education Dept.
Southwark : A. E. Odell, Southwark Town Hall.
Swindon : O. F. Gee, 13, Plymouth St., Swindon.
Twickenham : W. H. Jones, Municipal Offices.
Tynemouth : E. Davison, Health Dept., Preston Road.
Wallasey : G. E. Hughes, Education Office.
Walsall : G. T. Bakewell, Boro. Treasurer's Dept. (Room 34).
Warrington : R. S. Oxley, Boro. Treasurer's Dept.
Waterloo : G. S. Dewhurst, Town Hall.
West Kent : E. Field, 202, Lowfield Street, Dartford.
Weston-super-Mare : E. J. Pratt, County Health Dept.
West Riding : F. R. Mann, Staff Club, 6, Bond Street, Wakefield.
Willesden : E. A. S. Joung, Education Office.
Worsley : H. Tudge, Town Hall, Walkden.
York : W. J. Trapps, Education Offices.
Yorkshire (East Riding) : J. R. Gibson, Treasurer's Dept., County Hall, Beverley.

Student members in any of these Branches requiring personal advice or assistance are recommended to get in touch with the Education Correspondent.

Examination Questions.

As promised in a previous issue we give below a few questions from the paper on the Outlines of Local Government in the last N.A.L.G.O. Examination. Further questions will be given in a future issue.

1. Show, by means of a chart, the bodies responsible for the various local government functions in this country.

2. Who is entitled to vote at a municipal election ?

3. What procedure must now be followed when applying for the creation of a borough ?

Correspondence Institute.

The Nalgo Correspondence Institute has had a record number of enrolments this autumn. Indeed, the enrolments of students has increased month by month for several years. In September, 1929, 113 students enrolled as compared with 52 in 1929 and 46 in 1928. In October, 1930, there were 155 enrolments as compared with 83 and 67 in the previous two years.

Diploma in Public Administration, London.

The University authorities have consolidated the conditions for the registration of external students for degrees and diplomas. Several small alterations have been made in the conditions for the registration of candidates for the D.P.A. which tend to ease these conditions slightly.

Gifts to Library.

The Association wishes to acknowledge gratefully gifts to the Students Lending Library which have been made by two members. Mr. A. M. Weaver, of Kensington, has presented a set of 26 volumes of the Proceedings of the Incorporated Association of Municipal and County Engineers. Mr. F. V. Merriman, of Reading, has presented books to the value of the fees which would have been paid to him for acting as examiner in "Education" in the N.A.L.G.O. Final Examination last May.

Obituary.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Mr. W. J. Charlton, late Borough Accountant at Jarrow. Mr. Charlton was an ex-President of the Jarrow Branch of the Association. We desire to extend to the family our sincere sympathy in the loss they have sustained.

We regret to have to report the death of Mr. F. R. Hemsley, Vaccination Officer, Leeds, which occurred on the 25th October. Mr. Helmsley was one of our new colleagues transferred from the N.P.L.O.A.

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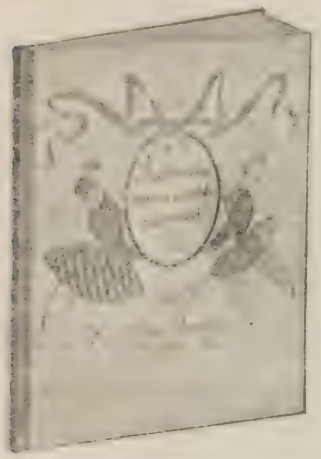
Selections for Young or Old.

Year by year, it seems to me, the standard of quality of Christmas gift [illegible] improves, not only in the matter of production, but in the quality of contents. This is particularly marked in regard to children's books. In my own boyhood days my book presents were somewhat patchy. Some of them were the precursors of the bright, readable books of to-day, others were badly produced and contained matter which was either trashy or had such a "goody-goody" tone that I could not wade through them.



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Actually, of course, [illegible] or friend [illegible] but the following [illegible] recommended and should simplify the task.

The *Amalgamated Press* list of Annuals includes some for every taste, notably "Chums" (12s. 6d.) "Tiger Tim's" (6s.), "Play Box" (6s.). "The British Girls' Annual" (5s.), "The Golden Annual for Girls" (4s. 6d.) and "Little Folks" (5s.).

Cassells specialise to an extent on really good stories, among which I can recommend "The Feud at Fennell's" (2s. 6d.), by John Mowbray, a boys' school story. "The Fourth Form Mystery" (1s. 6d.), by E. M. de Foubert, and "The Head Girl's Deputy" (2s. 6d.), by Brenda Page, both of which are written for girls.

Those children who have seen the Christmas play "The Windmill Man" will enjoy the book of the play by Audley Hay Johnston, published at 3s. 6d. by *Collins*. Other publications of this house are "Kalulu the Hare" (6s.), by Frank Worthington, "Mr. Popingay's Caravan" (6s.), by Marion St. John Webb, "Hey Diddle Diddle" (6s.), by Stephen Southwold, and "The Children's Story of Literature" (6s.), by Edward Albert, M.A.

A very fine nature story is "The Strange Old Man" (7s. 6d.), by S. H. Skaife, published by *Longmans Green*, who also offer "True Tales of an Old Shellback" (2s. 6d.), by Stephen Southwold, and "The Children's Play Hour Book" (6s.).

Among the really beautiful Annuals issued by the *Oxford University Press* are those for Scouts (3s. 6d.), Boys (5s.), Girls (5s.) and Children (5s.). There is also a fine selection of stories at various prices, including "Martin of Old London" (1s. 6d.), by Herbert Strang, "In Pirate Waters" (3s. 6d.), by George Garner, and "The Adventures of John Carfax" (5s), by Lawrence R. Bourne.

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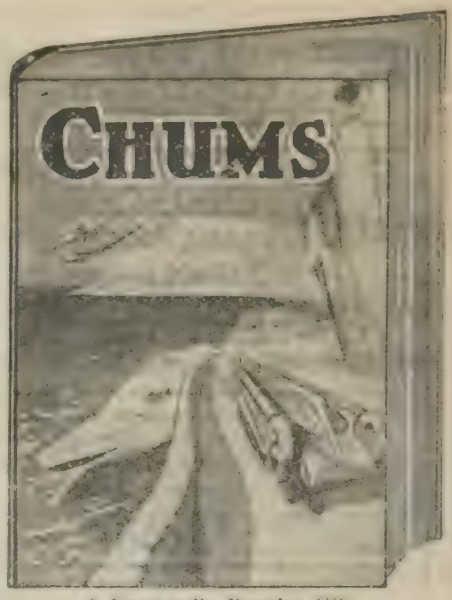

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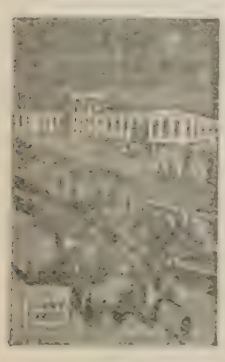
(*Continued on page 296.*)



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The Bookshelf.

MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS EXEMPLIFIED. *By Stanley Whitehead, F.I.M.T.A., F.S.A.A., Borough Treasurer of Hammersmith. Published by Gee & Co. (Publishers), Ltd. Price 7s. 6d. net.*

The author, in his preface, states that the articles which appeared in the "Accountants' Journal" have been reprinted in book form in response to numerous requests, and that primarily they were intended to assist the junior members of the staffs of Finance Departments.

With this end in view he has included numerous illustrations of a practical character, with pro forma accounts, showing the connection between the subsidiary records and the principal books of account and the effect thereof on the latter.

The questions dealt with are of a diverse character, and include Rechargeable Expenditure, Rents of Property, New Street Works, Rates Estimates, Wages, Stores, Redemption and Superannuation Funds.

The young student preparing for the examinations of the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants will find this book of assistance in the furtherance of his studies, as will also the member of a Finance Staff, who, for one reason or another, is unable to sit therefor, but who is desirous of obtaining a better understanding of the accounting records to be found in the department.

ARNOLD'S LAW OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS: *6th edition. Published by Butterworth and Co. Price* £3 7s. 6d.

Arnold's "Municipal Corporations" requires no introduction to municipal officials, and the sixth edition is very welcome. It has been produced by Messrs. Butterworth & Co., with Sir Lynden L. Macassey as Consulting Editor and Mr. F. C. Minshull (Deputy Town Clerk of Birmingham) as Editor. The present edition contains six sections as follows: A. The Municipal Corporations Acts 1882–93, and the Amending Acts of 1906 and 1910. B. As to Qualifications. C. As to Meetings. D. As to Finance. E. As to Legal Proceedings. F. Miscellaneous. This summary only gives a very hazy idea of the mass of well-arranged information and authors' notes which are packed into 470 pages. No officer who is interpreting or administering municipal corporation law can be without this book. It is completely up-to-date, and contains all reported cases up to 31st July, 1930.

ECONOMICS OF MODERN INDUSTRY. *By Percy Ford. Published by Longmans, Green and Co. Price 4s. 6d.*

THE author, who is the Head of the Department of Economics and Commerce at University College, Southampton, and an Examiner for the Nalgo Intermediate Examinations, has departed from the time-honoured method of approaching the study of Economics by the traditional division of the subject into Production, Distribution, Value, etc., and has presented his work in a practical manner, showing how economic theory is applicable to every-day businesses. This method of treatment should make the book appeal alike to business men and students.

The activities of the State in economic life are comprehensively dealt with, and the concluding chapter gives an excellent survey of economic changes in England, and traces the evolution of our present economic situation. This chapter also discusses many problems of immense importance at the present time upon which our future economic development depends.

A list of books for further reading is given at the end of the book, where the student is referred to works on particular topics.

The author demonstrates clearly that the subject is not a purely academic one, but one of immense practical importance and he has provided a congenial way of commencing the study of Economics.

THE EXPERIMENT OF BOLSHEVISM. *By Arthur Feiler. Published by George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. Price* 10s. 6d. *net.*

A praiseworthy attempt is here made to test Bolshevism in practice on the argument that the consequences of the war and of the civil war have been practically overcome, and that the experiment should now have reached a stage at which a test is reasonable and practical. The author spent three months journeying through Russia trying to comprehend the economic, political and intellectual bases and aims of Bolshevism, and so frame a diagnosis. He has covered an amazing amount of ground in his survey, and has collated and presented his facts and conclusions in most interesting fashion.

Road Traffic Act, 1930.

MOTORISTS AND THIRD-PARTY RISKS.

The attention of Members who are insured under the special N.A.L.G.O. Motor Car and Motor Cycle Policies is called to Part II of the above-named Act which comes into force on the 1st January, 1931. This Act makes it compulsory for all users of Motor Vehicles to be insured in respect of their liability for Personal Injuries to Third Parties.

The particular part of the Act reads as follows:—

PROVISION AGAINST THIRD-PARTY RISKS ARISING OUT OF THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

35.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Part of this Act, it shall not be lawful for any person to use, or to cause or permit any other person to use, a motor vehicle on a road unless there is in force in relation to the user of the vehicle by that person or that other person, as the case may be, such a policy of Insurance or such a security in respect of third-party risks as complies with the requirements of this Part of this Act.

(2) If a person acts in contravention of this section, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, and a person convicted of an offence under this section shall (unless the court for special reasons thinks fit to order otherwise and without prejudice to the power of the court to order a longer period of disqualification) be disqualified for holding or obtaining a licence under Part I of this Act for a period of twelve months from the date of the conviction.

The Insurance Certificates will be issued to N.A.L.G.O. Policyholders before the 31st December, 1930, and will comply with the aforesaid Part II of the Road Traffic Act, 1930. Furthermore, the Certificates will have printed thereon a set of instructions and, in addition, will make reference to the penalties which devolve upon users of Motor Vehicles who infringe the Act by obtaining licence or Insurance Certificate by misstatement or the withholding of material information.

On receiving their Certificates Members will find that the position is made abundantly clear.

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Insurances.

The attention of readers desiring any class of insurance is directed to the announcement on page ii of the cover which offers a substantial saving by insuring through the Local Government Guarantee Society, 7, 8 and 9, St. James's Street, S.W.1. [ADVT.]

Where to Stay.

BLACKPOOL.—Private House, three bedrooms, public or private sittingroom. Near North Shore, Golf House and five minutes from Promenade. Mrs. T. T. Sykes, "Birkby," 27, Calder Road, North Shore.

BRIGHTON.—Goodwin's, Clarence Square (Min. West Pier), Excellent Catering, midday dinner, supper 8 to 11 p.m. Billiards. From 50/-.—Tel.: 5339 Brighton.

COLWYN BAY.—Mrs. Partington, "Eldon," 4, Rhiw Bank Avenue. Adjoining Abergele Road. Board-Residence, Bed-Breakfast and Apartments. U.K.M.A.

EASTBOURNE.—Angles Private Hotel and Boarding Establishment, 26 to 32, Royal Parade, Est. 30 years. 100 Bedrooms; Billiards (full size). Dance Room. Under personal supervision. Terms from 2½ Gns. winter; 3 Gns. summer. 'Phone: 311.

EASTBOURNE.—Comfortable apartments. Nr. Sea. Miss E. D. Smith, "Glenmore," 66, Woodgate Rd.

LLANDUDNO.—"Llys Madoc," Charlton Street. Board-Residence or Bed-Breakfast. Highly recommended. Mrs. E. J. Leech.

RHYL.—Bailey's Private Hotel, 12, East Parade; opposite pier. NEW BATHS, Tennis Courts and Bowling Greens. Tel.: 143.

TORQUAY.—"Amara," Torwood Terrace, Board £2 12s. 6d. each per week; from Sept. to March £2 5s. each per week. Central. Mrs. Bull.

TORQUAY.—ASTWELL HALL Private Hotel, Warren Road. Central, facing South and overlooking bay. Magnificent sea views. Rooms with hot and cold running water. Garage. Every comfort with moderate terms. *Special terms to members of Nalgo.* Proprietor, W. Riley, *EX-NALGOITE*, Scarborough Branch.

NALGO HOLIDAY GUIDE.

Any member who has spent a holiday at an establishment which he can recommend will confer a favour on his fellow members by communicating the address to Headquarters for inclusion in the Nalgo Holiday Guide. A postcard will do.

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Competition Results.

Christmas Cartoon.

The winner of the Cartoon Competition is Miss Mabel F. Robins, Public Health Department, Deptford Town Hall, New Cross, S.E.14, who has been awarded the voucher value 1 guinea on Winegarten's, which was offered as a prize. Miss Robins' Cartoon is reproduced on another page.

A consolation prize has been forwarded to Mr. Thos. T. Birbeck, 11, Thornwell Road, Bulwark, Chepstow, Mon., whose cartoon is also reproduced in this issue.

Humorous Incident.

The prize for the Humorous Incident Competition has been awarded to Mr. Wm. Cunningham, Sanitary Inspector's Office, Municipal Buildings, Clydebank, Glasgow, for the following:—

A mentally defective child of seven years was having a psychology test at the school clinic.

The doctor knew that a child of average intelligence of that age ought to be able to remember two orders given at the same time, so he said to the child: "Pick up my pen and go and shut the door."

The child made no movement to obey, and the mother came to the rescue by saying: "Go on, and do what the doctor tells you. Pick up his pen and—what was the other thing you told him to do, doctor?"

COUNCILLOR OSWALD THOMAS, Deputy-Director of Education for Denbighshire, has been invited to be Mayor of Ruthin for the ensuing year. Mr. Thomas has been a member of the Ruthin Town Council for nearly 20 years. He is an ex-President of the Denbighshire Branch of N.A.L.G.O., in which Association he has always taken a very keen interest.

MR. G. H. LAKE, A.M.I.E.E., President of the Derby County Borough Branch, has been appointed City Electrical Engineer and Manager at Nottingham.

Appointments Vacant.

PLYMOUTH CITY HOSPITAL (GENERAL)

Sister required at the above Hospital for ward of Chronic Patients with small ward adjoining for mild infectious cases. Salary £80 and Uniform. Apply with copies of testimonials to Matron.

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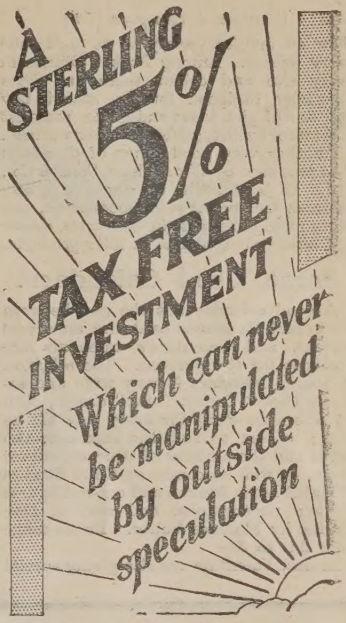

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Diaries.

(*Continued from page 292.*)

show an infinite variety to fit (and suit) every pocket. Among Pocket Diaries in every size and colour there are those especially designed for the school boy and school girl, scout and guide, motorist and motor cyclist, golfer, and many others.

Another very good range of diaries is that produced by Wm. Collins, Sons & Co., Ltd. It is difficult to single out any example for special recommendation, but every reasonable taste in size, price, colour and binding can be met in their products.

Some Good Calendars.

A good calendar fills the gap between the casual Christmas card and an actual present, and Valentine's calendars are excellent for the purpose. The selection of Block Calendars is very wide and includes their "Canny Tales" design, with its Aberdeen story for every day of the year; others to suit the motorist, the golfer and the admirer of George Bernard Shaw, as well as charming Child Studies of Mabel Lucie Attwell and cut-out figures of dog photographs, and also of Dog Studies by Florence Valter. Prices range from 2d. to 5s.

Messrs. Valentine are also giving special attention to the publication of Party Games. This is a line of business which has come very much to the fore of recent years, and the designs in Valentine's range should have a good reception.

Gramophone Records.

This is usually a very good season for gramophone records. The makers realise that people want new and bright numbers for themselves and their friends, and vie with each other in turning out topical numbers.

I have had a deal of anticipatory pleasure in going through the "Decca" list, and have picked out F2013, carols by Arnold Goldsborough's Choir, F2017, Christmas Memories by Finck, and the latest dance records by the Rhythm Maniacs, Nos. F2015, F2008 and F2036.

Of the Imperials I at once picked out the latest recording of Grandino and his Orchestra (2358), Imperial Revels (2359), a pot pourri of the year's successes, and some new dances, 2354, 2355 and 2356.

Parlophones are always my choice for good operatic records, and I have been entranced with the reproductions of Richard Tanker. He has a wonderful voice, and the records do justice to it.

E. M. B.

Sports and Recreations.

Metropolitan District Report.

The report of Mr. W. Harold Lakin, Hon. Secretary of the Sports and Recreation Sub-Committee of the Metropolitan District, for the year ending October 31st, 1930, shows that during the year under review eleven sectional committees have organised 35 competitions in which a minimum number of 1,619 members have taken part.

In addition to the internal competitions various inter-district, inter-area and inter-service matches have been played, thereby providing opportunities for social intercourse with members of other districts or kindred associations.

Burton Cricket Club.

The Burton Branch Cricket Club are in a position to report a very successful season for 1930, for of 20 matches played, 8 were won, 2 lost, 9 drawn, and 1 abandoned, the Branch scoring 2,055 runs for the loss of 158 wickets, an average of 13 runs per wicket, against 1,981 runs for 163 wickets (average 12·1) scored by their opponents.

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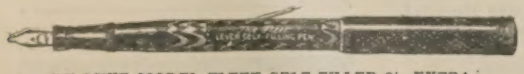

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